



St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School (1974 – 2024)

Mr J. Willis
Headteacher

E-Mail: office@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk
absence@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk
Website: www.stwilliamofperth.org.uk

Canon Close
Rochester
Kent ME1 3EN

Phone: 01634 404267
Fax: 01634 404788

NEWSLETTER NO 19: Friday 31st January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yr. R, 1 and 2 Grandparents Lunch

Thank you for all those who were able to attend. We were delighted with the response to this event. It was so lovely for the children to be able to spend time with their Grandparents and/or relatives.

Author Visit

This week we were visited by the author KD Greaves. She visited year groups 1, 5 and 6 to talk about the book she is writing and share some of the 'What if...' pages of the book. Children in these year groups thought carefully about their answers to the questions, and have since been thinking of their own 'What if...' questions and creating illustrations for them. KD Greaves has since been in contact to thank the classes she worked with and also remarked on how articulate the children were.

Heritage and Diversity Week:

Will take place the week beginning 3rd February. During this week all classes will learn about the diverse cultures that make up our school community. We are very proud of our diverse community and we are looking forward to celebrating the many different cultural backgrounds that make up the St. William of Perth family. We welcome any parents who would be happy to contribute to our learning during this week. In the past some parents have given talks, made food and shared traditional dress. If you would like to contribute, please speak to the office so that we can put you in contact with the class teacher.

Contract Dining

Will be serving a special menu every day next week for Diversity week. Menu's have been sent via ParentMail.

Heritage and Diversity Week Open Afternoon – Friday 7th February – 2:45pm

We would like to invite you to share in our Heritage and Diversity week learning. Next week, children will be learning about a country in our classes that makes up our school community. We look forward to a very exciting week with lots of different activities. We would like to share this learning with you and if you are available, would like you to attend an open afternoon on Friday 7th February from 2:45pm. After you have finished, you may take your child home.

Future Events

Yr. R - Family and Fairy Tales

We continue our family and fairy tale sessions from 8:40 – 9:05 on a Tuesday. Year R parents are invited to join us to read with their children in the school hall. We have always found that this is an excellent way to encourage our youngest children to read.

Year 5 Swimming

Year 5 swimming sessions will continue on a Tuesday at the King's school pool. Please ensure your child has a coat as the children will be attending even if the weather is inclement.

Prayer Club

Led by our Prayer Pilgrims, we invite you all to our Prayer Club every Friday before school at 8:45am in the school hall.

Year 3 Class Trip – Medway Gurdwara – Monday 3rd February

In order to develop the children's understanding of other faiths and cultures we have arranged for Year 3 to visit the Medway Gurdwara on Monday 3rd February. In respect of Sikh customs, children will also need to bring a woolly hat or headscarf with them (**no caps**) to wear during their visit to the Gurdwara.

Year 2 Class Assembly – Friday 7th February

Year 2 parents are invited to attend Year 2's class assembly taking place next Friday, 7th February at approximately 9:05am





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Year 1 Class Trip – Kent Life Victorian Day – Thursday 13th February

As part of their history curriculum, we have arranged for Year 1 to visit Kent Life on Thursday 13th February. The day will consist of various interactive workshops and demonstrations about rural Victorian life. All children should arrive promptly at school dressed in their full school uniform wearing trainers (not plimsolls please). Please also remember that suitable outerwear will be needed taking into consideration the weather on the day. Please ensure your child's lunch, consent and payment has been confirmed via ParentPay no later than Monday, 3rd February.

Year 5 Class Trip – St Justus – Thursday 13th February

This trip has now been re-arranged for Thursday 13th February. We will leave school in the morning and walk to and from St. Justus Church, returning in time for lunch as normal. The children are to arrive promptly at school dressed in full school uniform together with a warm / waterproof coat.

Big Build – Thursday 27th & Friday 28th February

On Thursday 27th and Friday 28th February we will be having our annual Big Build event! This is where we come together as a whole school community and have a Design and Technology competition based on a particular theme, which we are keeping as a surprise until closer to the time. We are looking for donations of cardboard boxes, tubes, egg boxes, glue, sellotape, making tape and any other junk modelling materials that could be useful. Please send them in with your child to be given to their class teacher. Thank you for your continued support.

Medication at School: If applicable, medication i.e. asthma inhalers / epipens etc., should be returned to school immediately. Please check the expiry dates on all medication; it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that any medicines in school are within the recommended 'expiry by' date.

Tuesday morning SEN appointments: Should you wish to make an appointment to discuss any SEN related issues please speak with the office and they will arrange an appointment for a Tuesday morning after 9:30. Alternatively, you may email Mrs Morrow directly on sen@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk . Phone consultations are preferable.

Healthy Eating: May we politely remind you that chocolate bars / sweets etc. are not to be included in home packed lunches please. **SWOP is a NUT FREE ZONE:** Some of our children have severe nut allergies so it is very important that pupils' packed lunches **should not contain any nuts or nut products** – thank you.

Absence: If your child is absent from school, please contact the school office by telephone or email using absence@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk before 9:30 am on the first morning of absence. Should your child continue to be absent from school on the third day, parents must re contact the school. When your child returns to school, if you have not already emailed their reason for absence, please also send a written note to school with your child giving the reason for your child's absence so that the absence can be authorised and the reason for the absence noted on your child's school record. Please do not put this information in the contact book.

Attendance: St. William of Perth is committed to ensuring all children achieve their full academic potential and believe that good attendance means good learning. The positive impact that regular attendance has on a child reaching their full academic potential and the benefits this brings to emotional and social well-being. The school's expectation for pupil's attendance is at least 96%. If your child is too unwell to attend school in the morning, it is encouraged that if they are able to and feel well enough, to come into school later in the day to attend for the afternoon session to reduce the learning missed. Likewise, if your child is unwell and you are unsure whether to send them in, please do so. The children tend to perk up during the day and if they get too unwell to be at school, we will contact parents / carers to advise to collect.

Application for Leave of Absence / Exceptional Circumstances

As parents, you have a legal responsibility to ensure your child's attendance at school. Holidays should be taken during the school holiday period. During the academic year pupils are at school for 190 days and at home for 175 days. In order for our children to fully utilise their years in education, we believe it is vital that every message they receive reinforces the importance of school. Holidays in term time interrupt continuity of teaching and learning, disrupt the educational progress of individual children and create disruption to classes.

Please be aware that the statutory **DfE Working Together to Improve School Attendance 2024** and **The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2024**, state that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

All requests should be made well in advance, in writing. You will then be asked to complete an Application for Leave of Absence / Exceptional Circumstances form and will be invited to discuss your request with either myself or in my absence Mrs Tong.



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PE: All children must have a P.E. kit, named in a school plimsoll bag to be left at school until the end of term. Children cannot do P.E. if wearing earrings so please make sure they are removed for their P.E. day or are able to remove them without adult assistance. SWOP P.E. tops and plimsoll bags are available to purchase from the school office.

Please ensure all PE kits are in school as PE is very important in helping us promote healthy lifestyles!!

To avoid congestion at the school office, we ask that all uniform orders are placed via email to office@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk We will advise by return of email, stock availability and the cost of your order.

Phoning Home for Forgotten Items: Please remind your child that usually the office will not be phoning parents if they forget to bring items such as, swimming kit, book bags, musical instruments etc., so they need to check they have everything ready for school before they leave home!

Safeguarding:

Members of the public and professionals can use a referral and contact form to report any safeguarding concerns about a child or a young person to Medway's First Response service. Once the form has been submitted, it will be reviewed and assessed and action will be taken. Please use the following link: Report a child safeguarding concern | Concerned about a child | Medway Council You can also phone 01634 334466 or use the 24-hour emergency number 03000 419 191. You can also call NSPCC on 0808 800 5000, Child Line on 0800 1111 or Medway Police on 01622 690 690.

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200170/children_and_families/600/concerned_about_a_child/2

Please find below useful links to help keep children safe.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

<http://www.mscb.org.uk/>

Parish link

For information about the parish of St. John Fisher including newsletters and Mass times click on the link below.

<https://stjohnfisher.me.uk/>

St John Fisher Catholic Parish – Children's Liturgy Group – Sunday's at 9am

Children aged 3-7 are invited every Sunday at 9am (term-time only) to the new Children's liturgy group at St John Fisher Church during the 9am mass. This is a wonderful opportunity for your children to engage creatively with the Gospel and make friends.

Week commencing 20.01.25

Attendance Ted

Well done to Year 5 who won our Attendance Ted for the week.

Punctuality Pup

Well done to Year 4 who won the Punctuality Pup for the week.

Year R – Who Helps Us?

This term, children in St John's Class will be exploring the question 'Who Helps Us?'. We are looking for volunteers who would like to come into the classroom and talk to the children about what they do to help people. Some examples may include police officers, hairdressers, florists to name a few. If you would be willing to come in and talk to the children, please contact Miss Dormedy or the school office. Thank you!

INSET DAY – Friday 14th February 2025

Please be advised that we have organised our next INSET day for Friday, 14th February. Please be advised no children will be in school on that day.

Yours sincerely,

J. Willis

Mr J. Willis

Headteacher





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	Diary Dates – <i>Subject to Change</i>	
February 2025		
Monday 3 rd	Heritage & Diversity Week Year 3 Class Trip – Medway Gurdwara	
Tuesday 4 th	Year R - Family and Fairy Tales (Hall) Year 5 Swimming Lessons (Kings School)	8:40am – 9:05am
Wednesday 5 th	MYG Table Tennis Competition Year 4 – Forest School	
Friday 7 th	Year 2 – Class Assembly	9:05am
Tuesday 11 th	Year R - Family and Fairy Tales (Hall) Year 5 Swimming Lessons (Kings School) Year 4 – Forest School (Final session)	8:40am – 9:05am
Wednesday 12 th	Celebration Assembly (By Invite)	2:15pm
Thursday 13 th	Year 1 Class Trip – Kent Life Year 5 Class Trip – St Justus Church Year R - Through our Eyes (Parents Stay and Play session) PTA Second-hand Sale – World Book Day costumes End of Term 3	9-10am and 2-3pm
Friday 14 th	Inset Day – no children in school	